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Foreign Crops and MARKETS



VOLUME 55

NUMBER 3

Greece's 1947 Total Grain Production May Be 30 Percent Below 1946 and 40 Percent Smaller Than 1935-38 Average. (Page 456)

U. S. Rice Exports Reach Record Level. (Page 464)

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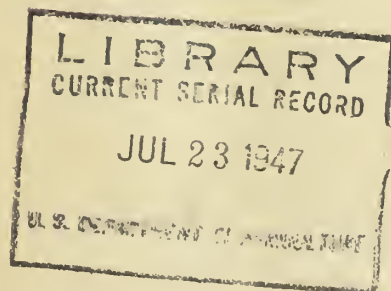
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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

The French Moroccan almond crop has been reported severely damaged by locusts. A preliminary forecast of production has been revised downward to 1,000 short tons, shelled basis, compared with 2,400 tons in 1946 and 2,400 tons (1936-1945) average. Exports, other than to France, may be banned to take care of domestic requirements.

Winter crops in the Soviet Union were good to satisfactory, during the first week in July, according to Soviet press reports. The condition of spring crops in most of the U.S.S.R. is reported good. Harvesting is well under way in the southern areas.

Burma's 1946-47 cotton crop is officially estimated at 17,000 bales (500 pounds gross) from 139,000 acres (174,500 acres planted) compared with final estimates of 32,000 bales from 226,000 acres (267,000 acres planted) in 1945-46. Poor quality and low yields per acre in 1946-47 are attributed to prolonged drought conditions.

British cotton mills are still severely handicapped by a shortage of labor. On May 31, 1947, 136 reopened cotton mills containing 10.5 million mule-equivalent spindles were in operation. Three other mills with a total of 200,000 spindles had announced intention to reopen, leaving 48 mills with nearly 2.5 million spindles still closed as a result of the wartime concentration order. April statistics, however, indicate that only 22.8 million spindles (mule-equivalent) and 248,000 looms were actually in operation out of a probable total (1937 statistics) of 44,000,000 spindles and 505,000 looms. The outlook for increased operation is not considered favorable.

The 64,000,000 yards of grey cotton piece goods recently purchased in Japan by the British Government will be finished in British mills and re-exported to Colonial areas as part of the Government's previous commitments to furnish specified quantities to the colonies.

The United Kingdom recently announced, effective July 13, a cut in the weekly per capita meat ration from 1 shilling 4 pence (about 27 cents) to a shilling 2 pence (approximately 23 cents) by reducing corned beef allocation from 4 pence (about 7 cents) to 2 pence (slightly more than 3 cents).

The Venezuelan Government has recently arranged to supplement domestic meat supplies by importing by air shipment fresh meat from Nicaragua. Present contract is reported to call for 8,000 pounds of meat daily during the July 1 to 15 period and 16,000 pounds daily from July 15 to the end of the contract, September 30. Local Nicaraguan meat prices are said to have increased by 10 percent since these operations began.

C O M M O D I T Y D E V E L O P M E N T S

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDSCANADIAN COMBINES
AID WHEAT HARVEST

Of interest in the Extension Service report on the grain harvest in the Plains States, is the fact that of an estimated 5,000 custom combines in use, about 1,100 are big combines brought in from Canada. This represents an increase of 650 machines over the number brought in from Canada last year. The importance of this participation is emphasized by the more than 700,000 acres of U. S. wheat that will have been harvested by Canadian machines during the first 20 days of July.

GRAIN CROP PROSPECTS
LOWER IN GREECE

Preliminary forecasts of the Ministry of Agriculture, confirm earlier reports that total production of all grains in Greece this year may be as much as 30 percent below that of a year ago, and nearly 40 percent below the 1935-38 average.

Production of wheat was estimated at about 18,400,000 bushels, a decline of 35 percent from the 1946 harvest of 28,500,000 bushels. Sporadic rains during June are reported to have benefited corn and some late sown spring grains, but will not offset earlier damage to grain crops caused principally by drought, frost, and rust.

As a result of these unfavorable prospects, cereals import requirements are expected to continue large during the coming year. During the July 1946-June 1947 year, approximately 425,000 long tons of grain for food were exported to Greece, most of which came from the United States.

ARGENTINE GRAIN ESTIMATES
REVISED DOWNWARD

Third official estimates of the 1946 crops of oats, barley and rye in Argentina place production of those grains at levels lower than were expected earlier in the season. Final returns indicate a harvest of 47,158,000 bushels of oats, 53,783,000 bushels of barley and 21,739,000 bushels of rye--a decline of 18, 5, and 3 percent, respectively, from

earlier forecasts of production for those crops. The lower estimates are attributed mainly to the effects of unfavorable late-season weather.

Even at the reduced level of production, however, the barley and rye crops are still of record proportions. The latest estimates of 1946 production of barley and rye compare with 38,378,000 and 11,535,000 bushels, respectively, harvested a year ago and both are more than double the 1935-39 average. 1946 production of oats was well below that of recent years and below average.

Preliminary reports indicate that soil conditions and weather for seeding the 1947 crop of small grains have been mostly satisfactory. Information is not yet available on the prospective acreages to be seeded.

CUBAN FLOUR SUBSIDY ABOLISHED

While detailed information is not yet available, it has been reported that on July 12 the Cuban Cabinet decided to abolish the import subsidy on wheat flour and to increase the wholesale ceiling price for that commodity. This action eliminates the maximum flour-import subsidy of \$4.98 per bag of 200 pounds, which has been in effect since late spring. It also increases the wholesale ceiling for flour from \$13.80 per bag to \$19.20 in Havana. Elsewhere on the Island the ceiling has been placed at \$20.70 per bag. It has been announced that these new ceiling prices will be in effect until September 15, 1947.

Also announced was a 3 cent increase in the ceiling price of bread, bringing the price up to 16 cents per pound at bakeries and to 18 cents at groceries and for home delivery.

(Continued on page 464)

TOBACCO

CANADA EXPECTS LARGE 1947 FLUE-CURED CROP

The 1947 Canadian flue-cured tobacco crop is progressing favorably, despite adverse early-season weather conditions, according to a report from the American Consulate at Hamilton, Ontario. Cold weather delayed transplanting for about 10 days, but by June 15 about 90 percent of the plants had been set out. Acreage restrictions have been removed, and estimates place this year's flue-cured area at about 105,000 acres, or 10 percent more than the 96,000 acres planted in 1946. Last year's flue-cured production totaled 114 million pounds.

The larger 1947 plantings of flue-cured tobacco are attributed to a need for an increase in stocks, and to provide larger supplies of export leaf. Domestic consumption has remained high, and foreign demand for Canadian flue-cured leaf has continued to be heavy. The 1947 plantings of other tobacco types - Burley, pipe and cigar tobaccos - are somewhat below last year's area of 22,450 acres. Burley is expected to account for most of the decrease.

FATS AND OILS

NETHERLANDS INDIES COPRA EXPORTS WELL MAINTAINED

Netherlands Indies June exports of 17,136 short tons brought the total for the first six months of 1947 to 96,914. All shipments, with the exception of about 1,600 tons to the United States, went to the Netherlands. Stocks at the end of June amounted to 41,440 tons. Copra buying prices were 19 gulden per 100 kilograms (\$65 per short ton) for F.M.S. and 15 (\$51) for mixed delivered at warehouse.

CUBA PLACES SOYBEAN OIL PRICES ON COST-PLUS BASIS

The Cuban Government has authorized the calculation of ceiling prices of imported soybean oil on a cost-plus basis so that imports of this product may be resumed profitably without violating price regulations.

The wholesale ceiling price of 22 cents per pound (25 cents retail) effective since 1943, had hindered the importation of this product since the ceiling was far below the landed cost in Cuba.

Following the termination of the price ceiling in the United States, the cost of soybean oil for export rose considerably and during most of the past twelve months was well above the wholesale ceiling in Cuba. Though prices declined during June, they were still too high to permit imports to be sold at the Cuban ceiling price. As a result importers were forced to restrict their purchases to quantities used for mixing with other oils and for making hydrogenated products which could be sold at higher prices. A similar disparity exists in regard to domestic peanut oil, which is used for the same purposes as soybean oil. The ceiling price for this oil, set in August 1946, is 40 cents a pound when in one-pound containers.

In order to permit the importation of needed additional quantities of edible vegetable oils, the Government placed soybean oil on a cost-plus basis for 90 days following the publication of the resolution on July 3. The maximum wholesale price may be 10 percent higher than the total costs, including the original purchase price, plus transportation, insurance, import duty, other taxes and delivery expenses. The maximum retail price is 20 percent above the wholesale price.

This resolution will permit soybean oil to be sold at prices remunerative to importers and, therefore, will make it possible for Cuba to import the entire quota allocated to it by the United States. Prices, furthermore, will be lower than those for domestic peanut oil and consequently will tend to reduce the cost of living. Peanut growers and crushers, however, fear that if the United States export controls are discontinued, the increased imports of soybean oil may force a reduction in prices for domestic oil and for peanuts which would tend to discourage production.

The resolution makes no provision for the increased cost that would result to the importer if imported crude soybean oil were refined in Cuba. To this extent it appears to favor importation of refined oil although processors who use the oil for mixing and hydrogenation can continue to absorb refining costs because their products are not subject to price ceilings.

MADAGASCAR HARVESTS SHORT OILSEED CROPS

Madagascar's total oilseed production for 1947 is estimated at approximately 9,500 short tons, a decrease of 43 percent from the 1946 output and 24 percent from the prewar (1935-39) average. Adverse weather conditions, military troubles on the central east coast, and possible decline in acreage (figures are not yet available) are responsible for the short crops.

The greatest reductions occurred in the copra output which dropped from 4,400 tons in 1946 to 770 tons this year and the castor bean decrease from 3,300 to 660 tons. The peanut crop is estimated at 8 000 tons, compared with 8 800 last year. Over 880 tons of castor beans were exported in 1946.

CHINA HAS RECORD
RAPESEED CROP

China's final estimate for 1947 rapeseed is 4.2 million short tons compared with 3.5 million last year. This season's crop is a record, which is fortunate for that country at this time as edible oil stocks are low, particularly in Shanghai. Heavy buying of rapeseed is anticipated during July as a special fund has been appropriated for the purchase of 16,500 tons. The seed will be crushed by Shanghai mills for the production of oil to be sold under the Government ration system.

Edible oil export commitments for contracts made before export restrictions were imposed on April 23, 1947, have been resumed. According to trade reports 550 tons of rapeseed oil have been shipped to the Netherlands.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

PRICES OF FINE WOOL REMAIN AT
HIGH LEVEL AT LATEST LONDON SALES

The price of greasy Australian fine combing wool 64's average top making, at the June 9 auctions in London was 90.6 cents per pound clean scoured basis. This is an increase of about 2 percent above the April auction price and 33 percent higher than at the opening sales in September. Spinners style wool of the same quality rose to \$1.02 cents a pound in early June compared with \$1.01 at the April sales. Supplies of this type were restricted. The top price for Australian wool was \$1.12 cents for 70's spinners style and the lowest price 71.3 cents for average continental skirtings of 60's quality.

The price of 56's ordinary New Zealand wools was 60.4 cents a pound, clean scoured basis, or the same as at the April sales but 12 percent above September auction prices. The highest price for New Zealand wool was 84 cents for 60's super and the lowest price 40.3 cents for 46's ordinary carding wool. The prices of the coarser New Zealand wools, 48's super, 48's ordinary carding and 46's ordinary carding were all 1 to 2 cents lower per pound than at the September auction sales.

London Wool Sales: Average price per pound (clean scoured basis) for specified wools sold at auction 1947-48. a/

| | : : | : Sept | : : | : Dec. | : : | : Feb. | : : | : April | : : | : June |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| | : | <u>cents</u> | : | <u>cents</u> | : | <u>cents</u> | : | <u>cents</u> | : | <u>cents</u> |
| <u>Greasy Australian</u> | : | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Combing Wool</u> | : | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Spinners' Style</u> | : | | | | | | | | | |
| 70's | : | 83.2 | | 92.3 | | 97.3 | | 110.7 | | 111.6 |
| 66's | : | 80.7 | | 88.1 | | 92.3 | | 106.5 | | 107.4 |
| 64's | : | 77.3 | | 81.4 | | 84.0 | | 100.7 | | 101.5 |
| 60's | : | 74.0 | | 72.2 | | 75.5 | | 91.5 | | 90.6 |
| | : | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Average topmaking</u> | : | | | | | | | | | |
| 70's | : | 72.2 | | 77.2 | | 80.5 | | 94.0 | | 95.2 |
| 66's | : | 69.8 | | 74.7 | | 78.0 | | 91.5 | | 92.3 |
| 64's | : | 68.1 | | 73.0 | | 75.5 | | 89.0 | | 90.6 |
| 60's | : | 63.9 | | 73.0 | | 70.0 | | 78.9 | | 78.9 |
| | : | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>New Zealand's Wools</u> | : | | | | | | | | | |
| | : | | | | | | | | | |
| 60's Super | : | -- | | -- | | -- | | -- | | 83.9 |
| 58's Super | : | -- | | -- | | -- | | -- | | 76.3 |
| 58's Ordinary | : | -- | | -- | | -- | | -- | | 67.1 |
| 56's Super | : | -- | | 59.6 | | -- | | 68.8 | | 68.8 |
| 56's Ordinary | : | 53.8 | | 52.9 | | -- | | 60.4 | | 60.4 |
| 48's Super | : | 47.0 | | 44.5 | | 47.0 | | 45.3 | | 45.3 |
| 48's Ordinary | : | | | | | | | | | |
| Carding | : | 42.9 | | 41.1 | | 42.8 | | 41.5 | | 41.0 |
| 46's Ordinary | : | | | | | | | | | |
| Carding | : | 41.2 | | 39.5 | | 42.0 | | 41.1 | | 40.3 |

a/ See F.C.M. March 17, 1947 for average prices all sales September-December, compared with maximum export price in effect for Dominion wools from November 1, 1945 to September 1946.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Compiled from the Wool Record and Textile World, Bradford.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES LARGER

The United States continues to be the most important single market for Australian wool as shown by official Australian export statistics for the first 10 months of the season (July 1 - April 30).

Out of a total export of 1,036 million pounds, actual weight, the United States took 305 million pounds or 29 percent. This is an increase of 15 percent above the same period of 1945-46. The United Kingdom, France and Belgium were the other most important buyers, the United Kingdom being the only country taking less than a year earlier. Monthly shipments to the United States have averaged 4 million pounds greater than in the preceding season while April shipments alone were 10 million pounds more than in April 1946.

Buyers for many Australian firms, which have been active competitors at the Dominion sales are reported as operating for American account with the result that sales to the United States in the first 8 months of the 1946-47 season exceeded the large volume of a year earlier by 16 percent.

AUSTRALIA: Exports of wool to principal destinations, first 10 months of 1946-47 with comparison.

| Countries | 1945-46 | | | 1946-47 | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Greasy | Scoured | Total | Greasy | Scoured | Total |
| | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds |
| United States | 238.1 | 26.4 | 264.5 | 278.2 | 26.6 | 304.8 |
| United Kingdom | 207.9 | 16.3 | 224.2 | 140.2 | 45.2 | 185.4 |
| Belgium | 43.2 | 4.8 | 48.0 | 146.2 | 16.3 | 162.5 |
| France | 54.5 | 0.7 | 55.2 | 161.5 | 9.6 | 171.1 |
| Italy | -- | -- | -- | 99.5 | 6.0 | 105.5 |
| Sweden | 1.4 | 1.2 | 2.6 | 10.4 | 6.0 | 16.4 |
| All other British | 6.0 | 13.5 | 19.5 | 8.1 | 18.2 | 26.3 |
| All other | 9.7 | 8.3 | 18.0 | 38.3 | 25.7 | 64.0 |
| TOTAL | 560.8 | 71.2 | 632.0 | 882.4 | 153.6 | 1036.0 |

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Compiled from Australian Overseas Trade.

CUBA IMPOSES HIGHER
IMPORT DUTY ON DEVILED HAM

The Cuban Government, as of June 21, issued a customs circular to reclassify deviled ham for import purposes. Under the new regulations deviled ham is to be classed with ham and shoulders, sugared, cured or otherwise prepared, which are dutiable at 21 cents a kilo (almost 10 cents per pound).

In accordance with provisions in the Reciprocal Trade Agreement with the United States the reclassification will not become effective until 30 days after publication in the Official Gazette. Deviled ham was formerly classified as "Other preserved (canned) food not specifically provided for" at 14.4 cents a kilo (approximately 6 1/2 cents per pound). At prevailing prices the new rate is equivalent to about 15 percent ad valorem.

COTTON

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices of certain foreign growths
and qualities in specific markets

| Market location, kind, and quality | Date :1947 | Unit of weight | Unit of currency | Price in: foreign currency | Equivalent U.S. cents per pound |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Alexandria | | Kantar | | | |
| Ashmouni, Good..... | 7-10 | 99.05 lbs. | Tallari | 43.00 | 35.84 |
| Ashmouni, F.G.F..... | " | " | " | 40.75 | 33.97 |
| Giza 7, Good..... | " | " | " | 42.50 | 35.42 |
| Giza 7, F.G.F..... | " | " | " | (not quoted) | |
| Karnak, Good..... | " | " | " | 45.00 | 37.51 |
| Karnak, F.G.F..... | " | " | " | 41.00 | 34.17 |
| Bombay | | Candy | | | |
| Jarila, Fine..... | " | 784 lbs. | Rupee | 440.00 | 16.93 |
| Broach, Fine..... | " | " | " | 540.00 | 20.78 |
| Sind American, Fine..... | " | " | " | 548.00 | 21.09 |
| Punjab " 289-F, Fine: | " | " | " | 633.00 | 24.36 |
| Kampala, East African.... | " | " | " | 920.00 | 35.41 |
| Buenos Aires | | Metric ton | | | |
| Type B..... | 7-12 | 2204.6 lbs. | Peso | 2640.00 | 35.65 |
| Lima | | Sp. quintal | | | |
| Tanguis, Type 5..... | " | 101.4 lbs. | Sol | 161.00 | 24.42 |
| Pima, Type 1..... | " | " | " | 186.00 | 28.22 |
| Recife | | Arroba | | | |
| Mata, Type 5..... | 7-11 | 33.07 lbs. | Cruzeiro | 115.00 | 18.92 |
| Sertao, Type 5..... | " | " | " | 115.00 | 18.92 |
| Sao Paulo | | | | | |
| Sao Paulo, Type 5..... | " | " | " | 158.50 | 26.08 |
| Torreon | | Sp. quintal | | | |
| Middling, 15/16"..... | " | 101.4 lbs. | Peso | 139.50 | 28.30 |

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

(Continued from Page 456)

U. S. RICE EXPORTS
AT ALL-TIME HIGH

May exports of United States rice brought the total during the August-May period of the current marketing season to 755 million pounds, 130 million more than the previous record shipments for a similar period a year ago. Exports during the 10 months also exceed total shipments during the previous marketing year. Trade data are expected to show relatively heavy exports in June and July. Of the exports during the August-May period, 52 percent was shipped to Cuba, 43 percent to the Far East, and 3 percent to Canada.

UNITED STATES: Rice exports to specified countries,
May 1947 with comparisons a/

| Continent or country | August-July | | August-May | | May | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 1937-38 to 1941-42 | 1945-46 | 1945-46 | 1946-47 | 1946 | 1947 |
| | b/ | | | b/ | | b/ |
| | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds | Million pounds |
| Europe | 43 | 13 | 13 | c/ | c/ | c/ |
| Cuba | 275 | 335 | 314 | 396 | 15 | 55 |
| Canada | 19 | 30 | 29 | 23 | c/ | c/ |
| British West Indies : | c/ | 10 | 10 | 5 | 0 | c/ |
| Netherlands Indies .. | d/ | 60 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Philippine Islands .. | 1 | 185 | 128 | 254 | 0 | 0 |
| China | d/ | 64 | 50 | 67 | 18 | 0 |
| Other countries | 20 | 20 | 18 | 10 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 358 | 717 | 622 | 755 | 34 | 57 |

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

a/ Includes milled rice, brown, broken, screenings, and rough rice converted to milled at 65 percent. b/ Preliminary. c/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

d/ If any, included in "Other countries."

Total exports by months so far during the current marketing year in terms of milled rice are as follows (million pounds): August, 6; September, 14; October 9; November, 115; December, 161; January, 78 February, 171; March, 59; April, 85; and May, 57. Exports picked up in November after the maritime strike ended and in some months thereafter were the largest on record. The heavy trade with Asia was primarily from November to February, with none exported to that Continent after February. Exports to Cuba were low during the first part of the season, but were from moderate to heavy from January through May.

CUBAN RICE ARRIVALS

CONTINUE HEAVY

Arrivals of rice into Cuba during June equalled 55 million pounds, compared with 20 million in June 1946, according to preliminary figures of ships' manifests. Further arrivals during the 2 weeks, June 28-July 11, amounted to 26 million pounds. As the result of increased receipts in recent months, stocks are now reported to be ample for 2 or 3 months' supply. Monthly arrivals of milled rice during 1947 to date are as follows (million pounds): January, 43; February 30; March, 75; April, 77; May, 44; and June 55. Of the total imports during these months, 99 percent were from the United States.

CUBA: Rice arrivals, August-June, 1946-47 with comparisons

| Country or area | Average | | August-July | | August-June | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | 1932-36 | 1937-41 | 1944-45 | 1945-46 | 1945-46 | 1946-47 |
| | : Million : pounds | : Million : pounds | : Million : pounds | : Million : pounds | : Million : pounds | : Million : pounds |
| Orient..... | 333 | 201 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| United States.... | 19 | 232 | 339 | 330 | 317 | 422 |
| Ecuador..... | 0 | 1 | 70 | 56 | 40 | 16 |
| Chile..... | 0 | 0 | 9 | 13 | 11 | 1 |
| Colombia..... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 11 | 2 |
| Other countries.. | 27 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 9 | 8 |
| Total..... | 379 | 435 | 418 | 422 | 388 | 449 |

Compiled from preliminary figures of ships' manifests, except for calendar years 1932-41, for which data are official.

PHILIPPINE RICE PRICES

AT HIGH LEVEL

Rice prices in the Philippine Islands reported during the week ended June 21 were sharply above prewar prices, and quotations advanced during the week. Wholesale prices, ex-warehouse at Manila, for Macan No. 1 milled were from \$11.95 to \$12.55 per 100 pounds, and Macan No. 2 from \$11.74 to \$12.35 per 100 pounds. NARIC milled rice on June 16 sold at \$10.93 per 100 pounds, including containers, to authorized distributors. The price to producers for new-crop rough rice advanced from \$7.06 to \$7.81 per 100 pounds during the week.

The maximum fixed price in October 1941 for Macan No. 1 milled was \$2.51 per 100 pounds, and the price to farmers for Macan rough rice was \$1.65 per 100 pounds.

TROPICAL PRODUCTSMOST OF HAITI'S 1946-47
COFFEE EXPORTED

Only 80,000 bags (132 pounds each) of coffee from Haiti's 1946-47 crop remain to be shipped, according to airgram from the American Embassy at Port-au-Prince. The bulk of this crop, now placed at 400,000 bags for export, has gone to European countries, as was customary before the war.

Early in the season the exportable production was forecast at 537,000 bags. This optimistic forecast was based on the fact that picking began several weeks earlier than usual, which in the past always had indicated an exceptionally large crop.

TEA STOCKS ACCUMULATE ON
ACCOUNT OF COLOMBO STRIKES

According to a report from Ceylon, the strike of both lighter and tea warehouse workers has prevented loading of most ships calling at Colombo for tea. Colombo tea stocks on June 7 were estimated at 20 million pounds, and an additional 20 million pounds were being stored on the estates. The shortage of motor fuel, arising on account of the harbor tie-up, has curtailed transportation from the estates to Colombo. This is not altogether an evil, however, as tea in the humid port climate is subject to considerable deterioration if stored there for any length of time.

In June, the Ceylon Tea Commissioner's Office forecast the 1947-48 tea production at about the same as last year, or 280 million pounds of which 260 million pounds would be available for export. Some trade estimates are higher. Tea production in Ceylon has increased in recent years, and under favorable conditions the potential output is placed at 300 million pounds annually. At present the shortage of suitable manures is limiting production. Blister blight has had a negligible effect on total production, although it has caused severe damage on some estates.

